



HIST 209: Twentieth Century Europe

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Arthurs

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Course Description:

As the historian Eric Hobsbawm famously (really!) put it, Europe's twentieth century was an Age of Extremes. It witnessed two cataclysmic world wars, but also unprecedented prosperity; the expansion of democracy and equality, but also the birth of fascism and totalitarianism; dramatic innovation in art and technology, but also the disappearance of traditional cultures and identities. This course examines the many upheavals and transformations that occurred from the eve of the First World War to our own time, including the birth of total war; the rise of mass politics and culture; Nazism and the Holocaust; the Cold War; decolonization and immigration; and the development of the welfare state.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this History course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate general knowledge of the facts, concepts, and approaches of history;
- critically analyze and assess primary sources;
- critically analyze and assess secondary sources;
- produce historical essays that are coherent, grammatically correct, and use proper historical documentation.

Readings:

The following required books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- Felix Gilbert and David Clay Large, *The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present* (Sixth Edition)
- Marvin Perry, Matthew Berg and James Krukones, eds., *Sources of European History since 1900* (Second Edition) – indicated as “Sources” on the schedule.
- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*
- Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*
- Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*

Course Website:

Important materials – including this syllabus, selected readings, PowerPoint slides from past lectures, discussion questions and useful links – will be posted on the course website, which can be accessed by logging with your MIX user name and password to ecampus.wvu.edu.

Assignments:

Tests (60%): There are four tests to assess how well you have kept up with the lectures and readings. The first is worth 10% of your overall grade; the second and third are worth 15%; and the fourth is worth 20%. Since these are in-class and time-dependent, there are no make-ups. If you are aware that you will have a university-approved scheduling conflict, you may arrange to take the quiz in advance.

eCampus Discussion (25%): As indicated on the syllabus, students will write a series of responses to our longer readings during discussion weeks; these must be posted on the eCampus Discussion Board by **NOON on Mondays**. Each response will be graded, with the results posted online. Students will be divided into discussion groups to facilitate conversation. Please check your group's page regularly, as you can earn additional points by commenting on your peers' posts.

Participation and Attendance (15%): As you will notice on the syllabus, some weeks will be focused on lectures while others are devoted to discussion. During discussion weeks, the class will be divided in half to facilitate conversation. Our discussion will be focused on one longer reading but will also bring in themes and texts from other sessions. Your contributions for each discussion week are graded and form the core of your participation grade. You must attend the day to which you are assigned; these are based on your eCampus group.

Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Read the day's assigned readings ahead of time, so that you are prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions.

I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, I understand that illness and problems can arise, so you will be allowed **TWO** "free" misses over the course of the semester. Be judicious about how you use these absences. If you use up your absences early in the semester, I will not be sympathetic when you need to miss class later in the term. Perfect attendance will raise your participation grade, while multiple absences will lower it. **You must have an attendance rate of at least 60% in order to pass the course.**

Extra Credit: Students may earn up to 3% extra credit by writing an analysis of a film relevant to the themes of the course. A list of approved films is posted on eCampus. The paper should be approximately 4 pages long. You may only hand in one extra credit assignment per semester. Extra credit papers will be accepted at any time up to the start of class on Tuesday, 12/10.

Course Expectations:

Teaching Assistant: The teaching assistant for this course is Luke Gramith, a History Ph.D. student. He will be holding optional review sessions prior to each test, and is also available to meet with students individually. If you would like his assistance, please contact him at lwgramith@mix.wvu.edu.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please be sure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use laptops in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, instant-messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. At a minimum, **offenders will fail the course**. Plagiarism means "submitting, without appropriate acknowledgement, a report, notebook, speech, outline, theme, thesis, dissertation, or other written, visual, or oral material that has been copied in whole or in part from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual's academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper" (WVU Undergraduate Catalog, 2003-2005, p. 47). Plagiarism includes not only lifting passages word for word without using quotation marks (even if you cite the author!), but also the substantial use of anyone else's ideas without citing them. **Using material from the World Wide Web without citing it is plagiarism.** Your work is made stronger, not weaker, by showing that you are able to refer to the work of others and comment upon it critically. Whenever you use material word for word, you must use quotation marks and cite the proper author.

Writing Center: Writing is one of the most important skills in this course. You are encouraged to use the WVU Writing Center to help improve your papers. More information on the Writing Center's resources can be found via a link on the course eCampus page.

Statement of Social Justice: The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.wvu.edu>.

Schedule

Week I

8/20 Introduction: Where and When was Twentieth-Century Europe?

8/22 The World Left Behind: Nineteenth-Century Europe and the Fin de Siècle

- Joseph Chamberlain, “The British Empire: Colonial Commerce and the ‘White Man’s Burden” (Sources)
- Karl Pearson, “Social Darwinism: Imperialism Justified by Nature” (Sources)
- Édouard Drumont, “Jewish France” (Sources)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, “*The Will to Power* and *The Antichrist*” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 1-34, 53-81

Week II

8/27 The Great War: Roots and Causes

- Friedrich von Bernhardi, “Germany and the Next War” (Sources)
- Henri Massis and Alfred de Tarde, “The Young People of Today” (Sources)
- F.T. Marinetti, *The Futurist Manifesto* (eCampus)
- Stefan Zweig, “Vienna: ‘the Rushing Feeling of Fraternity’” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 90-105

8/29 The Great War: Combat

- Siegfried Sassoon, “Base Details” (Sources)
- Wilfred Owen, “Disabled” (Sources)
- Naomi Loughnan, “Genteel Women in the Factories” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 105-124, 130-134

Week III – Discussion: Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

9/3 Groups 1-4

9/5 Group 5-8

Week IV

9/10 The Great War: Legacies

- Woodrow Wilson, “The Idealistic View” (Sources)
- Georges Clemenceau, “French Demands for Security and Revenge” (Sources)
- German Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, “A Peace of Might” (Sources)
- Sigmund Freud, “A Legacy of Embitterment” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 134-139, 143-162, 166-170, 184-198

9/12 Revolutions in Red and Black: Russia and Italy

- Army Intelligence Report, “The Breakdown of Military Discipline” (Sources)
- V. I. Lenin, “What Is to Be Done?” (Sources)
- Benito Mussolini, “Fascist Doctrines” (Sources)

- Gilbert & Large, 80-89, 124-130, 170-178, 198-208

Week V

9/17 **TEST #1**

9/19 The Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism

- Ernst von Salomon, “Brutalization of the Individual” (Sources)
- Zetkin, Luxemburg, Liebknecht and Mehring, “Spartacist Manifesto” (Sources)
- Konrad Heiden, “The Ruinous Inflation, 1923” (Sources)
- Friedrich Jünger, “Antidemocratic Thought in the Weimar Republic” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 162-166, 179-184, 218-235, 243-252

Week VI

9/24 Life in the Third Reich

- Adolf Hitler, “Mein Kampf” (Sources)
- Kurt G. W. Ludecke, “The Demagogic Orator” (Sources)
- Ernst Huber, “The Authority of the Führer is...All-Inclusive and Unlimited” (Sources)
- Jakob Graf, “Hereditary and Racial Biology for Students” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 252-271

9/26 The Winds of War

- Fred Thomas, “To Tilt at Windmills” (Sources)
- George S. Messersmith, “The Nazis Were After...Unlimited Territorial Expansion” (Sources)
- Stefan Zweig, “The World of Yesterday” (Sources)
- Neville Chamberlain, “In Defense of Appeasement” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 208-217, 272-305

Week VII

10/1 WW2: Blitzkrieg to Barbarossa

- Adolf Hitler, “Poland Will Be Depopulated and Settled with Germans” (Sources)
- Heinz Guderian, “French Leadership...Could Not Grasp the Significance of the Tank in Mobile Warfare” (Sources)
- “The Indoctrination of the German Soldier: for Volk, Führer, and Fatherland” (Sources)
- William Hoffman, “Diary of a German Soldier” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 306-323

10/3 WW2: Genocide and Catastrophe

- Hermann Graebe, “Slaughter of Jews in Ukraine” (Sources)
- Rudolf Hoess, “Commandant of Auschwitz” (Sources)
- Nerin E. Gun, “The Liberation of Dachau” (Sources)
- Charles Fuhrmann, “In the Ruins of the Burning City SS-Men and Hitler Youth Were Holding Out Fanatically” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 323-342

Week VIII – Discussion: Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

10/8 Groups 5-8

10/10 Groups 1-4

Week IX

10/15 NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

10/17 **TEST #2**

Week X

10/22 Zero Hour: Postwar Europe

- Bruno Foa, “Europe in Ruins” (Sources)
- Ernst Cassirer, “The Myth of the State” (Sources)
- Jean-Paul Sartre, “Existence Precedes Essence” (Sources)
- Friedrich Meinecke, “The German Catastrophe” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 345-353

10/24 The Iron Curtain Descends

- Winston Churchill, “The Iron Curtain” (Sources)
- Nikita S. Khrushchev, “Report to the Twentieth Party Congress” (Sources)
- Paul-Henri Spaak, “Why NATO?” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 354-361, 397-401, 427-436

Week XI

10/29 Cold War Eastern Europe

- G.E.R. Gedye, “Witness to the Czechoslovak Coup (1948)” (Sources)
- Government of the German Democratic Republic, “What You Should Know About the Wall” (Sources)
- Andor Heller, “The Hungarian Revolution, 1956” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 367-379, 397-401

10/31 Cold War Western Europe

- George C. Marshall, “Laying the Foundations for Recovery” (Sources)
- Konrad Adenauer, “Democratic Politics and Christian Ideals” (Sources)
- Theodore H. White, “Germany is Alive and Vigorous Again” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 379-397

Week XII

11/5 The Economic Miracle

- Jean Monnet, “The United States of Europe Has Begun” (eCampus)
- British Labour Party, “Let Us Face The Future” (eCampus)
- Ludwig Erhard, “West Germany’s Social Market Economy” (Sources)

- Gilbert & Large, 407-427

11/7 **TEST #3**

Week XII

11/12 The State in Crisis: Unrest and Reform

- Daniel Cohn-Bendit, “The French Student Revolt” (Sources)
- The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, “Action Program (1968)” (Sources)
- Simone de Beauvoir, “The Second Sex” (Sources)
- Joschka Fischer, “The Alteration of Industrial Society” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 427-495

11/14 Glasnost, Perestroika, and the Fall of the Wall

- Mikhail Gorbachev, “Perestroika” (Sources)
- Václav Havel, “Farce, Reformability, and the Future of the World” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 495-544

Week XIII – Discussion: Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*

11/19 Groups 1-4

11/21 Groups 5-8

THANKSGIVING RECESS 11/26-28

Week XIV

12/3 The End of History or its Return?

- Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (eCampus)
- Margaret Thatcher, “The Free Market Versus State Intervention” (Sources)
- “Accounts of Omarska Concentration Camp” (Sources)
- Svetlana P. Glinkina, Andre Grigoriev, and Vakhtang Yakobidze, “Crime and Corruption” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large 545-589

12/5 Europe Today

- Bertie Ahern, “Enlargement is About Opening Minds as Well as Borders” (Sources)
- Jörg Haider, “Multiculturalism and the Love of One’s Country” (Sources)
- Gilbert & Large, 590-613

Week XV – Discussion: Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*

12/10 Whole class discussion

12/13 **TEST #4, 3-5 PM IN OUR REGULAR CLASSROOM**